

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of Claims 17-36. Applicants also note that the Examiner merely objected to Claims 5, 10 and 15 and indicated that such claims would be allowable if appropriately amended. Such claims are presented as independent claims and are thus now believed to be allowable.

Applicants cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14 and 16. Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's conclusion that such claims are rendered unpatentable as being obvious over a combination of references, Applicants cancel such claims to expedite prosecution of the present case and reserve the right to pursue such claimed subject matter in additional continuation applications. No *Festo*-like limitations are intended pursuant to arguments and/amendments and/or cancellation of claims made herein.

Applicants' counsel requests the courtesy of a telephone interview in the event the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this Amendment and Response.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

By: 

Joseph E. Kovarik
Registration No. 33,005
1560 Broadway, Suite 1200
Denver, Colorado 80202-5141
(303) 863-9700

Date: 12/19/06